



Learning Hub Limerick

Child Safeguarding Statement

Organisation Profile

Learning Hub Limerick (LHL) works in partnership with young people, their schools and their families to engage in learning for life in a non-formal environment. We also act as a community education service hub offering key facilities to many local organisations working with children, teenagers and adults in the community.

We add value to mainstream educational provision in targeted and innovative ways. Children spend only a fifth of their time at school and while we support schools to deliver high quality curriculum linked programmes the Learning Hub focuses mainly on providing active learning opportunities after school and during holiday times when schools are closed.

Number of staff

9 staff

25 Volunteers (Approx)

Number of students

1300 students attend throughout the year

Ability

The Learning Hub has a universal access policy with a wide variety of abilities attending various age appropriate activities



In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of Name of School has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

LHL Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement.

- The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Jennifer Moroney-Ward.
- The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) is James Blake.
- LHL Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of organisational life and must be reflected in all of the organisation's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the Learning Hub will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

Learning Hub Limerick will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Learning Hub will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult student with a special vulnerability.



The following procedures are in place:

In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the centre, the Learning Hub adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017 and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for staff which are published on the DES website.

In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff (and volunteers) and their suitability to work with children, Learning Hub Limerick adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the DES/TUSLA and available on the DES/TUSLA website.

In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the Learning Hub-

- Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the organisations's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the organisations's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Encourages staff & volunteers to avail of relevant training
- Management maintains records of all staff member training
- Ensures all volunteers are Garda Vetted and received induction on child safeguarding statement

In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all Learning Hub personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.

In this organisation the above-named DLP is the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

All registered teachers employed by the organisation are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the school has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.



The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the organisation's website, the DES /TUSLA website or will be made available on request by the Learning Hub.

This statement has been published on the Learning Hub's website and has been provided to all members of organisation personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and any government Department if requested.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement policy was adopted on: March 8th 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Moroney-Ward".

SIGNED:
Jennifer Moroney-Ward
CEO Learning Hub Limerick

Date: March 8th 2018

Date of next review: March 2019



